



## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/US89/02289 <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 25 May 1989 (25.05.89) <b>(30) Priority data:</b> 199,936 27 May 1988 (27.05.88) US <b>(71) Applicant:</b> CENTOCOR, INC. [US/US]; 244 Great Valley Parkway, Malvern, PA 19355 (US). <b>(72) Inventors:</b> SHEALEY, David, J. ; 1322 Broadview West, Downingtown, PA 19335 (US). PHILLIPS, Christopher, P. ; P.O. Box 65, Brandamore, PA 19316 (US). <b>(74) Agents:</b> DECONTI, Giulio, A., Jr. et al.; Hamilton, Brook, Smith & Reynolds, Two Militia Drive, Lexington, MA 02173 (US).		<b>(81) Designated States:</b> AT (European patent), BE (European patent), CH (European patent), DE (European patent), FR (European patent), GB (European patent), IT (European patent), JP, LU (European patent), NL (European patent), SE (European patent).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>
<b>(54) Title:</b> FORMULATION FOR ANTIBODY REAGENTS  <b>(57) Abstract</b>  A composition suitable for intravenous injection is disclosed, which comprises an aqueous stabilizing buffer solution containing antibody or antibody fragments and maltose. The composition is effective in stabilizing the antibody or fragments in solution, inhibiting precipitation and the formation of particulates in the final product vial, while maintaining a high level of immunoreactivity.		

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FORMULATION FOR ANTIBODY REAGENTSBackground of the Invention

This invention relates generally to antibody preparations and particularly to a highly stabilized  
05 antibody preparation for parenteral administration.

It is well known that many protein preparations intended for administration to humans require stabilizers to prevent denaturation of the proteins, agglomeration and other alterations to the proteins  
10 prior to the use of the preparation. Many preparations are particularly unstable in dilute solutions. This instability is manifested in the formation of insoluble particles, and is often increased when the protein preparation is stored, or  
15 shipped. This phenomenon, known as "shedding", is often increased when the protein preparation is stored at room temperature or higher, so that the preparation must often be refrigerated. "Shedding" generally refers to a visible precipitation of  
20 protein molecules.

Various methods for stabilizing protein preparations have been used with varying degrees of success. For example, increasing the concentration of the protein or adding another protein such as  
25 human serum albumin (HSA) has been known to enhance stability in some cases. However, such preparations may not always be acceptable for therapeutic purposes. In considering an appropriate stabilizer, such factors as lack as antigenicity, the biological

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activity of the specific proteins being stabilized and the availability and cost of the stabilizer are important.

Various carbohydrates have been used to  
05 stabilize and/or enhance solubility of certain  
biologically active protein preparations. For  
example, U.S. Patent 4,186,192, to Lundblad et al.  
discloses the use of maltose to increase the  
stability of an immune serum globulin preparation  
10 for intramuscular or intravenous administration. In  
U.S. Patent 2,826,533, Fowell discloses the use of  
dextrose to increase the solubility of a fibrinogen  
preparation. In U.S. Patent 4,089,944 Thomas  
discloses the use of a variety of carbohydrates,  
15 such as dextrose, mannose, galactose, fructose,  
lactose, sucrose, and maltose to increase the  
solubility of an AHF-fibrinogen composition.  
It has been found that when dextrose is added to  
immune serum globulin to enhance stability and or  
20 solubility, the globulins tend to aggregate over  
time, thereby increasing the optical density of the  
solution, and resulting in shedding.

The exact nature of shedding is not fully  
understood. Shedding is an undesirable  
25 manifestation since it is visually observable and  
indicates the possibility that the shedded protein  
may be inactive or denatured, therefore reducing the  
effective amount of protein available. A protein  
preparation in which shedding is apparent is an

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unsatisfactory product in terms of visual appearance.

The formation of protein aggregates and particulates has long been considered a problem in the development of parenteral immunoglobulin products. The administration of immunoglobulin G, for example, was limited to the intramuscular route because of endogenous anticomplementary activity due to aggregated immunoglobulin until the recent development of chemically and enzymatically treated immunoglobulin G. J. E. Pennington, Rev. Inf. Dis., 8(4):5371-5373 (1986). Recent modifications in immunoglobulin G formulations have also helped to alleviate this problem. J. P. McCue et al., Rev. Inf. Dis., 8(4):5374-5381 (1986). However, most commercially available formulations now in use require filtration of the product prior to injection to remove these aggregates and particulates.

The addition of maltose to protein solutions for various purposes is known. Maltose is readily available in pure form and has good stability in aqueous solutions in concentrations up to 20% by weight. Preparations containing maltose can be autoclaved without browning of the solution. Maltose in small quantities is practically physiologically inert. When administered parenterally, it is partially converted to glucose by the specific enzyme maltase found in many tissue sites in most animal species, including humans. The conversion to glucose is gradual and frequently undetectable when

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- plasma glucose is serially measured; therefore there is no apparent increase in circulating insulin levels. Since maltose is a disaccharide, a 10% solution is approximately isotonic in humans. In
- 05 U.S. Patent 4,499,073, Tenold discloses the use of a carbohydrate in a preparation of immune serum globulin to impart physiologically acceptable isotonicity to the preparation. Tenold specifies 10% weight to volume maltose for this purpose.
- 10 Lundblad et al., report in U.S. Patent 4,186,192 that a solution of immune serum globulin is stabilized when maltose is added in a concentration of between 5 and 18% by weight. Fernandes et al. describe a preparation of intravenous gamma-globulin
- 15 stabilized with maltose to minimize precipitation and improve in vitro shelf stability. Vox Sang, 39:101-112(1980).

#### Summary of the Invention

- The invention comprises an aqueous stabilizing
- 20 buffer containing an antibody or antibody fragments, and maltose. This buffer composition has the ability to inhibit the antibody or antibody fragments in solutions intended for intravenous administration from precipitating and forming
- 25 particulates in the final product vial. The antibody or antibody fragment may be derivatized with a chelating agent, such as, for example, diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid (DTPA) for binding radiometals. The formulation of the buffer solution

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contains phosphate, sodium chloride and maltose. The present composition has been successful in stabilizing monoclonal antibodies, or fragments thereof, for shipping and short-term storage at  
05 ambient temperatures without loss of immuno-  
reactivity, and requires no refrigeration or other special handling. The invention provides a stable, liquid formulation for monoclonal antibody products without shedding, thus increasing the shelf life of  
10 the antibody product.

#### Description of The Preferred Embodiments

The aqueous stabilizing buffer of this invention minimizes the formation of protein aggregates and particulates in reagents containing  
15 antibodies or antibody fragments, and insures that the antibody in solution maintains its immuno-  
reactivity over time. The preparation comprises a sterile, pharmaceutically acceptable solution containing a phosphate buffer, sodium chloride, an  
20 antimyosin monoclonal antibody or antibody fragment, and maltose. A preferred embodiment of this invention comprises about 10mM to about 100mM sodium phosphate (pH 6-8), about 145mM sodium chloride and about 5-20% (w/v) maltose and between about 0.5-5.2  
25 mg/ml antibody, preferably antimyosin. However, other antibodies or fragments, for example, antifibrin may be used. This buffer enhances the stability of immunological activity of the monoclonal antibody, and prevents the

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immunoglobulins in solution intended for intravenous administration to human subjects from precipitating and forming particulates in the final product vial. Another embodiment of the formulation contains pure  
05 monoclonal antibody molecules, or fragments, that have been modified for diagnostic therapeutic applications; for example derivatized with a chelating agent such as diethylenetriamine-pentaacetic acid (DTPA). The derivatized antibody  
10 can then be used as a radiopharmaceutical due to the chelator's ability to bind a radioactive heavy metal, such as, for example, Indium-111. In a more preferred embodiment, the antibody solution includes a monoclonal antibody fragment, such as antimyosin,  
15 derivatized with DTPA. The chelating agent is used for incorporating a radiometal, such as Indium-111, into the antibody protein, forming a protein-chelate-radiometal complex. This complex is then administered to a subject to deliver the  
20 radiometal to a site defined by the antigen which is the target of the antibody. The radiolabeled antibody can be used in scintigraphy, for example, in the imaging of tumors, or of disease sites, such as myocardial infarct or blood clots. For example,  
25 injection of labeled antimyosin antibody, which is specific for cardiac myosin, will result in localization of the radiometal at the site where antimyosin binds to myosin, and the site can then be scanned with a gamma camera to obtain an image of  
30 the myocardium useful for diagnostic purposes.



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The present formulation exhibits superior stabilizing characteristics in terms of minimal protein particle formation, preservation of immunoreactivity and radiometal incorporation over  
05 time, and under stress conditions, such as elevated temperatures, vial filling and shipping.

Maltose, which is used to stabilize the antibody solution, is described in detail in, for example, the Merck Index, 10th edition, Merck and  
10 Co., Inc. Rahway, NJ (1983). Maltose is a disaccharide, (4-0- $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranosyl-D-glucopyranose), which has been established as useful for maintaining pharmaceutically acceptable isotonicity of immunoglobulin solutions. (See U.S.  
15 Patent 4,499,073 to Tenold and U.S. Patent 4,186,192 to Lundblad et al., both discussed hereinabove). It has also been determined that maltose is not metabolized by humans when administered intravenously, and is excreted as maltose, with no  
20 apparent elevation in blood glucose levels or release of insulin.

Buffers have long been used to solubilize and stabilize antibody products for parenteral injection. They are utilized as biologically acceptable  
25 carriers for proteins. Protein solubility in the buffer solution depends upon a number of factors, such as ionic strength of the solution and the isoelectric point of the protein. Buffers which have been used as antibody carriers include citrate,

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sodium chloride and phosphate. The preferred buffer for this formulation is sodium phosphate buffers.

Sodium chloride is added to antibody compositions to enhance stability and to render the solution physiologically acceptable upon injection. Other alkali metal salts, such as potassium chloride, are not physiologically acceptable when injected intravenously.

Stability studies have demonstrated that a composition of the invention has successfully maintained the following characteristics after 65 weeks: antibody solubility (determined via liquid borne particulate analysis), chelator activity (greater than 88% binding of Indium-111 at 10 minutes), antibody immunoactivity (when compared to reference standard material) and antibody molecular integrity (via high pressure liquid chromatography and SDS page electrophoresis comparisons to reference standard material).

The invention is further illustrated by the following examples:

#### Example 1

##### Preparation of an Optimized Antimyosin Fab-DTPA Formulation

Formulations were tested with a variety of buffers, salt concentrations, pH levels, and excipients, such as, human serum albumin,

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surfactants, mandelic acid and N-acetyl tryptophanate. The test formulations were initially screened by visual inspection after incubation at 4°C, 22°C, 37°C and 45°C.

## 05 MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Protein Samples

- 10      a.    Antimyosin Fab-DTPA (Centocor, Inc., lot # 00745), 0.5 mg/ml in 100 mM sodium citrate, pH 5.0; manufactured 3/15/85. Source of antibody: Ascites fluid.
- b.    Antimyosin Fab-DTPA (Centocor, Inc., lot # 03505), 5.2 mg/ml in 0.9% NaCl, manufactured 12/16/85. Source of antibody: Cell supernatant

### 15 Buffers Tested

The following reagents were used to make the test buffers:

- Sodium citrate (Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, MO)  
Sodium chloride (J.T. Baker Co.)
- 20 Sodium phosphate Monobasic and Dibasic (Sigma Chemical Co.)
- Maltose (Sigma Chemical Co.)  
Lactose (Sigma Chemical Co.)  
Tween 80 (Sigma Chemical Co.)
- 25 Dextrose (Sigma Chemical Co.)

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- Human Serum Albumin (25%) (Armour)  
Propylene Glycol (Fisher Scientific Co.)  
Sodium acetate (Sigma Chemical Co.)  
Trishydroxymethylaminomethane (tris buffer)  
05 (Sigma Chemical Co.)  
Hydroxyethyl piperazine ethane sulfonic acid (HEPES  
buffer) (Sigma Chemical Co.)  
N-acetyl tryptophanate (Sigma Chemical Co.)  
Mandelic acid (Sigma Chemical Co.)
- 10 Test buffers:
1. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, pH 5
  2. 100 mM Citrate Buffer, 0.05% Tween 20, pH 5
  3. 100 mM Citrate Buffer, 0.01% Tween 20, pH 5
  4. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 0.2% Tween 20, pH 5
  - 15 5. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 5% Lactose, pH 5
  6. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 7.5% Lactose, pH 5
  7. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 10% Lactose, pH 5
  8. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 5% Dextrose, pH 5
  9. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 7.5% Dextrose, pH 5
  - 20 10. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 10% Dextrose, pH 5
  11. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 5% Maltose, pH 5
  12. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 7.5% Maltose, pH 5
  13. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 10% Maltose, pH 5
  14. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 0.5% Human Serum  
25 Albumin (HSA), pH 5
  15. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 1% HSA, pH 5
  16. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 2% HSA, pH 5
  17. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, pH 5.5
  18. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 5% Maltose, pH 5.5

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19. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 7.5% Maltose, pH 5.5
20. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 10% Maltose, pH 5.5
21. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 0.5% HSA, pH 5.5
22. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 1% HSA, pH 5.5
- 05 23. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 2% HSA, pH 5.5
24. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, pH 6
25. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 5% Maltose, pH 6
26. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 7.5% Maltose, pH 6
27. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 10% Maltose, pH 6
- 10 28. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 0.5% HSA, pH 6
29. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 1% HSA, pH 6
30. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 2% HSA, pH 6
31. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 100 mM Sodium Chloride, pH 5
- 15 32. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 200 mM Sodium Chloride, pH 5
33. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 0.025% Tween 20, pH 5
34. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 0.01% Tween 20, pH 5
35. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 0.05% Tween 80, pH 5
- 20 36. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 0.025% Tween 80, pH 5
37. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 0.01% Tween 80, pH 5
38. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 0.1% Propylene Glycol, pH 5
39. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 0.05% Propylene Glycol, pH 5
- 25 40. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 0.01% Propylene Glycol, pH 5
41. 500 mM Na Acetate Buffer, pH 5
42. 10 mM Phosphate Buffer, pH 7.4
- 30 43. 25 mM Phosphate Buffer, pH 7.3

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- 44. 25 mM Tris Buffer, pH 7.3
- 45. 25 mM HEPES Buffer, pH 7.3
- 46. 25 mM Tris Buffer, 100 mM Sodium Chloride, pH 7.3
- 05 47. 25 mM HEPES Buffer, 100 mM Sodium Chloride, pH 7.3
- 48. 100 mM Phosphate Buffer, pH 7.4
- 49. 100 mM Phosphate Buffer, 100 mM Sodium Chloride, pH 7.4
- 10 50. 100 mM Citrate Buffer, 20 mM N-Acetyl Tryptophanate, pH 5
- 51. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 20 mM Mandelic Acid, pH 5
- 52. 200 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 20 mM N-Acetyl Tryptophanate, 20 mM Mandelic Acid, pH 5
- 15 53. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 100 mM Sodium Chloride, 20 mM N-Acetyl Tryptophanate, pH 5
- 54. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 100 mM Sodium Chloride, 20 mM Mandelic Acid, pH 5
- 20 55. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 100 mM Sodium Chloride, 20 mM Mandelic Acid, 20 mM N-Acetyl Tryptophanate, pH 5
- 56. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 100 mM Sodium Chloride, 1% HSA, pH 5
- 25 57. 12.5 mM Phosphate Buffer, 100 mM Sodium Chloride, pH 7.2
- 58. 25 mM Phosphate Buffer, 100 mM Sodium Chloride, pH 7.2
- 59. 50 mM Phosphate Buffer, 100 mM Sodium Chloride, pH 7.2
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60. 100 mM Phosphate Buffer, 100 mM Sodium Chloride, pH 7.2
61. 12.5 mM Phosphate Buffer, pH 7.2
62. 25 mM Phosphate Buffer, pH 7.2
- 05 63. 50 mM Phosphate Buffer, pH 7.2
64. 100 mM Phosphate Buffer, pH 7.2
65. 12.5 mM Phosphate Buffer 0.1% Tween 80, pH 7.2
66. 25 mM Phosphate Buffer, 0.1% Tween 80, pH 7.2
67. 50 mM Phosphate Buffer, 0.1% Tween 80, pH 7.2
- 10 68. 100 mM Phosphate Buffer, 0.1% Tween 80, pH 7.2
69. 12.5 mM Phosphate Buffer, 100 mM Sodium Chloride, 0.1% Tween 80, pH 7.2
70. 25 mM Phosphate Buffer, 100 mM Sodium Chloride 0.1% Tween 80, pH 7.2
- 15 71. 50 mM Phosphate Buffer, 100 mM Sodium Chloride, 0.1% Tween 80, pH 7.2
72. 100 mM Phosphate Buffer, 100 mM Sodium Chloride, 0.1% Tween 80, pH 7.2
73. 12.5 mM Phosphate Buffer, 0.1% Propylene Glycol, pH 7.2
- 20 74. 24 mM Phosphate Buffer, 0.1% Propylene Glycol, pH 7.2
75. 50 mM Phosphate Buffer, 0.1% Propylene Glycol. pH 7.2
- 25 76. 100 mM Phosphate Buffer, 0.1% Propylene Glycol, pH 7.2
77. 12.5 mM Phosphate Buffer, 100 mM Sodium Chloride, 0.1% Propylene Glycol, pH 7.2
78. 25 mM Phosphate Buffer, 100 mM Sodium Chloride, 0.1% Propylene Glycol, pH 7.2
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79. 50 mM Phosphate Buffer, 100 mM Sodium Chloride,  
0.1% Propylene Glycol, pH 7.2
80. 100 mM Phosphate Buffer, 100 mM Sodium  
Chloride, 0.1% Propylene Glycol, pH 7.2
- 05 81. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 1% HSA,  $8 \times 10^{-4}$  M  
Mandelic Acid, pH 5
82. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 100 mM Sodium  
Chloride, 1% HSA,  $8 \times 10^{-4}$  M Mandelic Acid, pH 5
83. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 1% HSA,  $8 \times 10^{-4}$  M
- 10 N-Acetyl Tryptophanate, pH 5
84. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 1% HSA, 100 mM Sodium  
Chloride,  $8 \times 10^{-4}$  M N-Acetyl Tryptophanate, pH 5
85. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 1% HSA,  $8 \times 10^{-4}$  M  
Mandelic Acid,  $8 \times 10^{-4}$  M N-Acetyl Tryptophanate,  
pH 5
- 15 86. 100 mM Na Citrate Buffer, 1% HSA, 100 mM Sodium  
Chloride,  $8 \times 10^{-4}$  M Mandelic Acid,  $8 \times 10^{-4}$  M  
N-Acetyl Tryptophanate, pH 5
87. 100 mM Na Acetate Buffer, 1% HSA, 100 mM Sodium
- 20 Chloride, 10% Maltose, pH 5
88. 100 mM Na Acetate Buffer, 100 mM Sodium  
Chloride, 10% Maltose, pH 5
89. 10 mM Phosphate Buffer, 145 mM Sodium Chloride,  
pH 7.2
- 25 90. 10 mM Phosphate Buffer, 145 mM Sodium Chloride,  
10% Maltose, pH 7.2
91. 10 mM Phosphate Buffer, 145 mM Sodium Chloride,  
10% Maltose, pH 7.0
92. 10 mM Phosphate Buffer, 145 mM Sodium Chloride,  
10% Maltose, pH 6.75
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- 93. 10 mM Phosphate Buffer, 145 mM Sodium Chloride,  
10% Maltose, pH 6.5
- 94. 10 mM Phosphate Buffer, 145 mM Sodium Chloride,  
10% Maltose, pH 6.25
- 05 95. 10 mM Phosphate Buffer, 145 mM Sodium Chloride,  
10% Maltose, pH 6.0

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Formulation Adjustment and Testing

Antimyosin Fab-DTPA was dialyzed against 100 volumes of the indicated buffers using dialysis tubing (Fisher Scientific Co.), and then 0.2 micron  
05 filtered. Dialysis tubing was boiled in 10mM EDTA pH 7.0, rinsed with distilled water, and stored in 70% ethanol prior to use.

Dialyzed antimyosin Fab-DTPA was adjusted to 0.5 mg/ml and filled, 1 ml/vial, aseptically into  
10 sterile 1 ml vials (Wheaton) and sealed with sterile rubber stoppers (West) and metal crimps. Vials were incubated at 4°C, 22°C, 37°C and 45°C for 48-96 hours. Some vials were, in addition, stressed by shaking at 37°C (formulations 1-32) or by shipping  
15 in styrofoam containers from Malvern, PA to Miami, FL, then returned to Malvern, PA by Federal Express, Priority 1 mail (formulations 90-95). Shipped vials were filled using a peristaltic pump (Paxall) through 0.123 inch (inside diameter) silicone tubing  
20 at a pump speed of 500 rpm.

Vials were visually inspected by inverting several times and observing against a dark and a light background. Vials containing antimyosin Fab-DTPA were compared with control vials, prepared  
25 as described above, which contained buffer only. In general, all of these buffers exhibited no shedding at 4°C and 22°C over the times they were examined. Experimental parameters for formulations exposed to temperatures of 37°C and 45°C yielded the most  
30 information. The degree of precipitation was graded

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as follows: + (precipitates, cloudy); +/- (fine precipitates); - (no precipitates). The results of the visual inspection for buffers 1-89 for formulations stressed at 37°C and 45°C are shown in Table

05 1.

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TABLE 1

Visual Inspection of Antimyosin Formulations  
Stressed at 37°C and 45°C<sup>(a)</sup>

		37°C Shaken				
		(#1-#32)				
		45°C				
		(#32-89)				
		37°C	45°C	Formulation	37°C	45°C
05	1	-	-	46	+	-
	2	+	-	47	-	-
	3	-	-	48	-	+
	4	-	-	49	-	+
	5	+/-	+	50	-	+
10	6	-	+	51	-	+
	7	-	+	52	+	+
	8	-	+	53	-	+
	9	-	+	54	+	+
	10	-	+	55	+	+
15	11	+/-	+	56	-	-
	12	-	+	57	+	+
	13	-	+	58	+	+
	14	-	+	59	+	+
	15	-	+	60	+	+
20	16	-	+	61	-	+
	17	-	+	62	+	+
	18	-	+	63	+	+
	19	+/-	+	64	+	+
	25					

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	20	+	+	65	+	+
	21	-	+	66	+	+
	22	+	+	67	+	+
	23	+	+	68	+	+
05	24	-	+	69	+	+
	25	+	-	70	+	+
	26	+	-	71	+	+
	27	+	+/-	72	+	+
	28	-	+	73	-	+
10	29	-	+	74	+	+
	30	-	+	75	+	+
	31	-	-	76	+	+
	32	-	+	77	+	+
	33	-	+	78	+	+
15	34	-	+	79	-	+
	35	-	+	80	-	+
	36	-	+	81	-	+
	37	-	+	82	-	+
	38	-	+	83	-	+
20	39	-	+	84	-	+
	40	-	+	85	+	+
	41	+	+	86	+	+
	42	-	+/-	87	-	+
	43	-	+/-	88	-	+
25	44	+	+	89	-	-
	45	-	+			

(a) Incubated at indicated temperature 48-96 hr, or  
or shaken at maximum rpm on rotary shaker for  
18 hr.

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- + easily visible particulates, cloudy
- +/- fine particulates visible
- no particulates

05 The phosphate formulations shown as formulations 90-95, were shipped to Miami, FL and returned to Malvern, PA, and formation of particulates was observed. The results of the shipping study are shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2

10 Shipping Study of Phosphate Formulations<sup>a</sup>

	<u>Formulation</u>	<u>pH</u>	<u>Particulates</u>
	90	7.2	+
	91	7.0	+/-
	92	6.75	-
15	93	6.5	-
	94	6.25	-
	95	6.0	-

(a) 10 mM phosphate, 145 mM NaCl, 10% maltose containing 0.5 mg/ml antimyosin Fab-DTPA.

20 After storage at 4°C for over 2 years, the shipped vials were analyzed for particulates by particle counting in a Climet model CI-1000 particle counter. Each vial was degassed and three 0.1 ml

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aliquots counted to determine total particles greater than or equal to 10 microns and greater than or equal to 25 microns. Replicate runs were averaged and the total counts per dose (1.15 ml) are reported in Table 3.

**TABLE 3**  
Particle Counts for Antimycin Formulations<sup>a</sup>  
Shipped and Stored at 4°C for 25 Months

10	<u>Formulations</u>	<u>pH</u>	total particles per dose	
			<u>10 microns</u>	<u>25 microns</u>
	90	7.20	830	460
	91	7.00	not tested	not tested
	92	6.75	370	210
	93	6.50	430	260
15	94	6.25	680	520
	95	6.00	530	370
		specifications <sup>b</sup>	10,000	1,000

(a) 10 mM sodium phosphate, 145 mM sodium chloride, 10% maltose

20 (b) USP XXI

These results confirm the results obtained by visual inspection of the shipped vials set out in Table 2. Protein precipitation during shipping or long term storage (more than 2 years) was minimized by the 10 mM sodium phosphate, 145 mM sodium

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chloride, 10% maltose formulation, particularly at pH 6.75 and 6.50.

#### In-111 Incorporation and Immunoreactivity

After screening buffers for particulate  
05 formation, selected formulations which showed  
minimal precipitation were further evaluated for  
In-111 incorporation into the protein, and  
immunoreactivity of the resulting In-111 labeled  
antimyosin Fab-DTPA. Formulations at neutral pH  
10 were acidified prior to radiolabeling with an equal  
volume of 0.2 M sodium citrate (pH 5) in a  
metal-free microfuge tube (BioRad). All transfers  
were also performed with metal-free pipette tips  
(BioRad). In-111 chloride [Amersham, 370 MBq/ml (10  
15 mCi/ml) at reference] was then added to the  
protein-citrate mixtures to a final specific  
activity of 148 MBq (4 mCi) per milligram. After  
incubation for 15 minutes at room temperature, 10 ul  
was spotted 1.5 cm from one end of a 1 x 10 cm  
20 ITLC-SG paper strip (Gelman) and developed in 0.1 M  
sodium citrate (pH 5.0). The strip was cut in half  
and both halves measured in a dose calibrator set  
for In-111. Under these conditions, all In-111 that  
was protein bound remained at the origin.  
25 In order to test for immunoreactivity, a  
1000-fold dilution of the radiolabeled antimyosin  
Fab-DTPA was made in 0.01 M sodium phosphate (pH  
7.2), 0.15 M NaCl, 1% (w/v) bovine serum albumin  
(PBS-1% BSA). One hundred microliters of this



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- diluted sample were applied to a 1 ml column of myosin-Sepharose C1-4B (Pharmacia). This affinity column was prepared by the attachment of myosin purified from dog heart tissue to cyanogen-bromide
- 05 activated Sepharose C1-4B (Pharmacia). The column was eluted with eight 1 ml aliquots of PBS-1% BSA, followed by eight 1 ml aliquots of 0.1M glycine pH 2.5, 0.01% thimerosal. The collected fractions were counted in a gamma counter set for In-111, the
- 10 percentage eluting with the glycine buffer representing active radiolabeled antibody. This percentage was divided by the fraction of In-111 protein bound (from ITLC-SG chromatography) to correct for unbound In-111.
- 15 Those formulations showing the least amount of precipitation were examined to see if the excipients would adversely effect In-111 incorporation or activity of the antibody. Table 4 shows an example with the excipient human serum albumin, where it
- 20 appears that a portion of the In-111 binds to sites on the albumin rather than to the antimyosin antibody.

TABLE 4

25 Comparison of Shipped Formulations With and Without Human Serum Albumin (HSA)

<u>Formulation</u>	<u>Incorporation</u>	<u>Immunoreactivity</u>
100 mM Citrate pH 5.0		

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	(control)	88.9	83.3
	100 mM Citrate pH 5.0,		
	100 NaCl, 10% maltose	96.5	71.8
	100 mM Citrate pH 5.0,		
05	100 mM NaCl, 10%		
	maltose, 1% HSA	92.4	55.2

It was discovered that the majority of excipients either did not prevent precipitation, or as in the case of HSA, interfered with In-111 binding to the antimyosin antibody. The best formulations were at neutral pH in HEPES [N-(2-hydroxyethyl)piperazine-N'-(2-ethanesulfonic acid)] or phosphate buffer.

Neutral pH formulations require acidification prior to In-111 labeling. This was accomplished by adding an equal volume of a citrate buffer. Citrate buffers ranging from 100 mM to 500 mM and from pH 3.4 to 5.2 were equally effective. A 200 mM citrate pH 5.0 buffer was chosen for all future studies. Previous stability studies of antimyosin Fab-DTPA in 100 mM citrate pH 5.0 indicated no loss of immunoreactivity up to 66 weeks at 5°C.

The best formulation was formulation 90, which has the composition 10 mM phosphate, 145 mM NaCl, 10% maltose and containing 0.5 mg/ml antimyosin Fab-DTPA. This formulation, at pH 7.2, was pumped into vials and compared with the previous 100 mM

citrate pH 5.0 formulation. The results are shown in Table 5:

**TABLE 5**

### Comparison of Citrate and Phosphate pH 7.2 Formulations

05

		% In-III			
<u>Formulation</u>	<u>Conditions</u>	<u>Particulates</u>	<u>Incorp.</u>	<u>Immunoreactivity</u>	
10	I	37°C shaken			
		90 hr	+/-	95.5	90.1
		shipped	+	97.6	90.3
	II	37°C, shaken			
		90 hr	-	95.9	90.4
		shipped	-	95.1	90.4

I = 0.5 mg/mL antimyosin Fab-DTPA in 100 mM citrate  
15 pH 5.0

II = 0.5 mg/mL antimyosin Fab-DTPA in 10 mM  
phosphate pH 7.2, 145 mM NaCl, 10% maltose

The phosphate formulation (Formulation II) showed no particulates under these conditions, still bound In-111, and maintained a high level of immunoreactivity.

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Example 2Stress Testing of Antimyosin Fab - DTPA FormulationsMATERIALS AND METHODS

Vials of antimyosin Fab-DTPA (Centocor, Inc.)  
05 were stored under the following conditions:

4°C for 12 months  
ambient temperature for 12 months  
37°C for 12 months

and analyzed for particulates by particle counting  
10 and visual inspection.

Two vials each of antimyosin Fab-DTPA were  
stored at 4°C, and then subjected to the following  
stresses immediately prior to analysis:

24 hours at -20°C  
15 24 hours at 45°C  
24 hours at -20°C followed by 24 hours at  
45°C  
shipment at ambient temperature from  
Malvern, PA, to Miami, FL, and back  
20 (Federal Express Priority 1)  
untreated control stored at 4°C.

All vials of antimyosin Fab-DTPA were filled at  
1.15 ml/vial and contained 0.5 mg protein per ml of  
buffer solution. The buffer solution was composed

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of 100 mM sodium phosphate (pH 6.5), 145 mM NaCl, 10% maltose.

### Visual Inspection

All vials were inspected for visible  
 05 particulates prior to analysis and the results recorded on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 meaning no visible particles and 5 meaning that numerous, easily visible particulates were present. Table 6 summarizes the results of visual inspection and  
 10 particle counting after stressing.

TABLE 6

### Visual Inspection and Particle Counting

<u>Treatment</u>	<u>Visual (1) Inspection</u>	<u>Particle Counting (2)</u>	
		<u>10 microns</u>	<u>25 microns</u>
15 24 hr., -20°C	3	465	177
24 hr, 45°C	3	840	318
24 hr, -20°C/24 hr. 45°C	2	686	253
shipping at ambient temp.	2	648	295
storage at 4°C	1	625	226
20 12 mo. at 4°C	2	571	288
12 mo. at ambient	3	587	280
12 mo. at 37°C	3	575	261

(1) Average of observations of two vials, graded on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 meaning no visible

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particles, 5 meaning numerous visible particles or fibers.

- (2) Average of analysis of three 0.1 ml aliquots, and expressed as total particles per 1.15 ml (one dose).

In order to avoid diluting samples and possibly dissolving particles, three 0.1 ml aliquots were analyzed, then averaged and converted to total particles per dose (1.15 ml). No differences were observed by particle counting and all samples met USP XXI requirements. However, differences were seen by visual inspection. By this subjective evaluation, the numbers of visible particles increased in all groups relative to the untreated control stored at 4°C.

#### Full Scale Labeling

The contents of one stressed vial of antimyosin Fab-DTPA were transferred to a vial containing 1 ml of 200 mM citrate pH 5.0 buffer, (Centocor, Inc.). Indium-111 chloride (Amersham, cat. no. INS-1PA) was diluted with expired, unopened Indium-111 chloride to a concentration of 1 mCi/ml, and 0.25 ml was added to the citrate buffered antimyosin Fab-DTPA. After incubation for 10 minutes at room temperature, protein bound Indium-111 was determined by ITLC-SG chromatography by the following method: Ten microliters were spotted 1.5 cm from one end of a 1 x 10 cm ITLC-SG paper strip (Gelman cat. no. 61885) and developed in 100 mM sodium citrate (pH 5.0).

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The strip was cut in half and both halves measured in a dose calibrator (Capintec CRC-5) set for In-111. Under these conditions, all In-111 that was protein bound remained at the origin. The product  
05 specification is greater than 90% protein bound at 10 minutes.

The contents were then withdrawn by syringe through an 0.2 um filter (Millipore Millex-GV cat no. SLGV025LS). The syringe/filter/needle assembly  
10 and the filter/needle were weighed before and after filtration in order to measure the weight of the entire dose and the weight retained in the filter/needle. The uCi of Indium-111 in the syringe/filter/needle and in the filter/needle was  
15 measured in a dose calibrator (Capintec CRC-5) after filtration. The filtrate was then analyzed for immunoreactivity and HPLC gel filtration: Gel filtration was performed using high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) by injecting 10 ul of  
20 each sample onto a Dupont Zorbax GF-250 (0.94 x 25 cm) column at a flow rate of 1 ml/min. The mobile phase was 200 mM sodium phosphate pH 6.8, and the eluate was monitored for absorbance at 214 nanometers. The absorbance signal was integrated,  
25 and elution time and integrated area of each peak determined. The product specification is greater than 98.0% of all protein elutes as monomer Fab-DTPA.

Full scale clinical labelings were carried out  
30 on the remaining unopened vial from each stress

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condition, using In-111 diluted to 1 mCi/ml. The loss of mass and radioactivity were measured to determine if the stress caused radioactivity to be preferentially held up by the filter. The results 05 show in in Table 7, indicated that the losses range from 7.0 to 11.5% and were not substantially different from the control.

TABLE 7Loss of Mass and Radioactivity on Filter Unit

10	10	% Total Dose (g) Retained by Filter	% Total In-111 Retained By
<u>Sample</u> <u>Filter</u>			
24 hr., -20°C		9.1	7.8
24 hr., 45°C		9.7	8.4
15 24 hr., -20°C/24 hr. 45°C shipping at ambient temp.		9.0	7.0
		11.5	8.9
control stored at 4°C		10.4	8.0

These losses are attributed to the expected holdup of solution in the filter. The radioactivity 20 retained by the filter averaged 1.8% less than the percent mass retained. Each full scale labeling was also evaluated for In-111 incorporation and immuno-reactivity as shown in Table 8. All of the samples were within specifications for these two lots.



TABLE 8Evaluation of Full Scale Labelings

<u>Sample</u>	<u>% In-111 Protein Bound</u>	<u>% Immunoreactivity</u>
05 24 hr., -20°C	94.6	95.1
24 hr., 45°C	93.6	96.4
24 hr., -20°C/24 hr. 45°C	93.0	98.0
shipping at ambient	94.8	95.4
control stored at 4°C	94.9	97.3

10 Isolation of Particulates

The second stressed vial of antimyosin Fab-DTPA was opened in a laminar flow hood and analyzed on the particle counter. Each vial was opened and analyzed in a horizontal laminar flow hood. Three 0.1 ml aliquots were counted in a Climet model CI-1000 particle analyzer set to count all particles greater than or equal to 10 microns and all particles greater than or equal to 25 microns. USP XXI specifies that a single dose must contain 10,000 or fewer particles greater than or equal 10 microns in size and 1,000 or fewer particles greater than or equal to 25 microns in size. The remaining contents (about 0.5ml) were transferred to a centrifugal filter unit (Rainin cat. no 38-120 assembled with a

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6 mm diameter 0.2 micron polyvinylidene difluoride membrane punched from 47 mm stock (Gelman, cat. no FP-200). The unit was centrifuged at 1000 rpm for 30 min. in a Sorvall model GLC-2B centrifuge with a  
05 HL4 rotor. Particles collected on the membrane were resuspended in 50 ul of distilled, deionized water, transferred to a microfuge tube and dissolved by vortexing. The dissolved particles were analyzed by HPLC gel filtration, SDS-PAGE chromatography and  
10 isoelectric focusing IEF as described below. The filtrate was analyzed by optical density at 280 nanometers ( $OD_{280}$ ), HPLC gel filtration, SDS-PAGE chromatography, and IEF.

#### Protein Concentration

15 The optical density at 280 nanometers was measured using a UV spectrophotometer (Milton Roy model 1201). An 0.1 ml aliquot of sample was diluted with 0.4 ml of buffer lacking protein, and the instrument was blanked with the same buffer.  
20 The  $OD_{280}$  reading was converted to mg protein per ml assuming  $E^{0.1\%}_{1\text{cm}} = 1.4$  for murine immunoglobulins. Product specification is 0.45-0.55 mg/ml.

#### SDS PAGE

25 Sodium dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) using gradient gels and a discontinuous buffer system was carried out on the Pharmacia PhastSystem using PhastGel gradient 10-15 precast gels and PhastGel SDS buffer strips. The

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0.5 mm thick gels have a 4.5% T, 3% C stacking gel above a continuous 10 to 15% gradient gel (2% C) and a buffer system of 0.112 M acetate, 0.112 M Tris, pH 6.4. The SDS buffer strips contain 0.20M tricine,  
05 0.20 M Tris, 0.55% SDS at pH 7.5 in a 2% agarose gel.

Equal volumes of sample and 2x sample buffer (5% w/v sodium dodecyl sulfate, 0.02% bromophenol blue, with or without 10% v/v 2-mercaptoethanol)  
10 were heated for 5 minutes in a boiling water bath and 1 ul of each applied to a sample lane. Low molecular weight markers (Bio-Rad cat. no. 161-0304) were included on each gel. The gels were run for 60-65 Vhr with the limiting conditions of 250V, 10  
15 mA and 3.0 W.

The gels were stained in the PhastSystem development unit first with Coomassie Blue, then with silver nitrate using the PhastGel silver stain kit (Pharmacia). Gels were stained for 8 min. in  
20 0.1% w/v Phast Gel Blue R in 30% v/v methanol, 10% v/v acetic acid for 5 min., then switched to fresh destain for 8 min., then switched again to fresh destain for 10 min. Gels were preserved in 5% v/v glycerol, 10 v/v acetic acid for 5 min. Each gel  
25 was then washed for 2 min. in 10% v/v ethanol, 5% v/v acetic acid, then fresh wash solution added and washed for an additional 4 min. (50°C). The gel was treated with 5% v/v glutaraldehyde for 6 min. at 50°C, followed by two washes with 10% v/v ethanol,  
30 5% v/v acetic acid for 3 min. and 5 min., then two

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- washes with distilled water for 2 min. each, all at 50°C. Gels were stained with 0.4% w/v silver nitrate for 6.5 min. at 40°C, then washed twice in distilled water each for 0.5 min. at 30°C.
- 05 Developer (2.5% w/v sodium carbonate, 0.013% v/v formaldehyde) was added twice for 0.5 min. and 4 min. at 30°C. The gels were treated to reduce background for 2 min. at 30°C with 2.5% w.v sodium thiosulfate, 3.7% w/v Tris-HCL. The gel was
- 10 preserved by washing for 5 min. at 50°C in 5% v/v glycerol. Gels were photographed and allowed to air dry.

The product specification is that the sample must conform to standard, in this case, the

15 untreated control.

#### Isoelectric Focusing

- Isoelectric focusing (IEF) was performed using Pharmacia PhastGel IEF 3-9 precast gels of range 3 to 9 pH units. The gels are approximately 0.5mm
- 20 thick homogeneous polyacrylamide gels (5% T, 3%C) containing Pharmalyte carrier ampholytes. The gels were prefocused for 75 Vhr using the limiting conditions of 2000V, 2.5 mA and 3.5 W. The gels were then run for 410 Vhr using the same limiting
- 25 conditions as during prefocusing. IEF gels were stained in the PhastSystem development module as described under SDS-PAGE. The product specification is that the sample must conform to standard, in this case the untreated control.

Column Immunoreactivity Assay

- Aliquots of the In-111 labeled antimyosin used to determine In-111 incorporation were also used to measure the immunoreactivity. At the same time that
- 05 the ITLC-SG chromatography was performed, a 1000-fold dilution of the radiolabeled antimyosin Fab-DTPA was made in 0.01 M sodium phosphate pH 7.2, 150 mM NaCl, 1%(w/v) bovine serum albumin (PBS-1% BSA). One hundred microliters of this diluted
- 10 sample was applied to a 1 ml column of myosin-Sepharose Cl-4B. This affinity column was prepared by the attachment of myosin purified from dog heart tissue to cyanogen-bromide activated Sepharose Cl-4B (Pharmacia). The column was eluted
- 15 with ten 1 ml aliquots of PBS-1% BSA, followed by ten 1 mL aliquots of 0.1 M glycine pH 2.5, 0.01% thimerosal. The collected fractions were counted in a gamma counter (LKB model 1272) set for In-111, the percentage eluting with the glycine buffer
- 20 representing active radiolabeled antibody. This percentage was divided by the fraction of In-111 protein bound (from ITLC-SG chromatography) to correct for unbound In-111. The product specification is greater than 85% immunoreactivity.
- 25 The antimyosin Fab-DTPA remaining in each vial after particle counting (0.5 ml) was filtered by centrifugation through an 0.2 micron polyvinylidene difluoride filter. This method was chosen in order

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to allow evaluation of both the filtrate and particulates.

Both the filtrate and the redissolved particulates were compared by HPLC gel filtration, SDS-PAGE and IEF. No aggregates could be seen in any of the gel filtration profiles. Essentially no Fab-DTPA could be detected in any of the redissolved particulates. Similarly, all of the treated samples appeared equivalent to the untreated control in both the SDS-PAGE and IEF analyses. No bands were present in the lanes containing the redissolved particulates.

The OD<sub>280</sub> of the filtrate was measured after 5-fold dilution, then converted to mg/ml. No significant differences from the control sample were observed. The results are shown in Table 9.

TABLE 9

Protein Concentration After Filtration

20	<u>Sample</u>	<u>OD<sub>280</sub></u>	Protein (1)
			<u>Concentration (mg/ml)</u>
	24 hr., -20°C	0.113	0.40
	24 hr., 45°C	0.122	0.44
	24 hr., -20°C/24 hr 45°C	0.121	0.43
	shipping at ambient	0.116	0.41
25	storage at 4°C	0.114	0.41

$$(1) \frac{OD_{280}}{1.4} \times 5 = \text{mg/ml}$$

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Although slight increases in the number of visible particles were observed after vials were stressed, changes were not detectable by any other means of evaluation. When the particulates and  
05 filtrate were separated, no aggregates could be seen in the HPLC gel filtration profile. The redissolved particulates did not contain detectable amounts of Fab-DTPA by HPLC gel filtration, SDS-PAGE or IEF. The protein concentration measurements of the  
10 filtrates were all similar to the control, and all were below specification (0.45-0.55 mg/ml).

The stress conditions also had no effect on the results of the full scale labelings. In-111 incorporation and immunoreactivity were within  
15 specifications.

### Example 3

#### Antifibrin Fab-DTPA Formulation

Using the same analytical techniques described in Example 1, formulation development was also  
20 performed using a second murine monoclonal antibody Fab fragment, antifibrin, conjugated to the metal chelator DTPA. The formulations which showed the best results were based on sodium phosphate, sodium chloride and maltose, and had a pH in the range of  
25 6.0 to 7.2.

Antifibrin Fab-DTPA (Centocor, Inc.) was formulated at a protein concentration of 0.5 mg/ml

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into buffer solutions containing 10 mM sodium phosphate, 145 mM sodium chloride and 10% w/v maltose at pH values of 7.20, 7.00, 6.50, 6.25, 6.00 by equilibrium dialysis as described in Example 1, and vialled at 0.8 ml per vial. These vials were shipped at ambient temperature and visually inspected. The results, shown in Table 10, indicate that the formation of particulates in this formulation appeared to be pH dependent.

10

TABLE 10  
Shipping Study of Antifibrin Formulation<sup>a</sup>

	<u>pH</u>	<u>Particulates</u>
	7.20	+
	7.00	+
15	6.75	+/-
	6.50	+/-
	6.25	-
	6.00	-

(a) 10 mM sodium phosphate, 145 mM sodium chloride, 10% w/v maltose

The best formulations were at pH 6.00 and 6.25, which showed no visible particles. These lower pH vials were also analyzed for In-III incorporation, and shown to be equivalent to standard untreated antifibrin Fab-DTPA.



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After storage at 4°C for 2 years, the shipped vials were analyzed by particle counting as described in Example 2. The results are summarized in Table 11.

05

TABLE 11

Particle Counts for Antifibrin Formulation<sup>a</sup>  
Shipped and Stored at 4°C for 25 Months

	<u>pH</u>	<u>total particles per dose</u>	
		<u>10 microns</u>	<u>25 microns</u>
10	7.20	1810	910
	7.00	not tested	not tested
	6.75	280	170
	6.50	600	360
	6.25	470	250
15	6.00	840	430
	specifications <sup>b</sup>	10,000	1,000

(a) 10 mM sodium phosphate, 145 mM sodium chloride, 10% w/v maltose

(b) USP XXI

20 These particle counts comport with the shipping study results, indicating that the higher pH formulations are less stable. The data indicate that the formulation comprising 10 mM sodium phosphate, 145 mM sodium chloride, 10% w/v maltose, when optimized  
25 for pH, prevented protein precipitation from stress

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induced by shipping and long term storage (> 2 years).

Equivalents

Those skilled in the art will recognize, or be  
05 able to ascertain, using no more than routine  
experimentation, many equivalents to the specific  
embodiments of the invention described herein.  
These and all other equivalents are intended to be  
encompassed by the following claims.

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CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An aqueous buffer solution for monoclonal antibodies or antibody fragments, comprising:
  - 05 (a) a buffer
  - (b) sodium chloride
  - (c) maltose.
2. An aqueous buffer solution of Claim 1 wherein the buffer comprises phosphate buffer.
- 10 3. An aqueous buffer of Claim 2 in wherein the phosphate buffer comprises sodium phosphate having a concentration between about 10 mM and about 100 mM and having a pH between about 6 - 8.
- 15 4. An aqueous buffer of Claim 3 which comprises between about 5 to about 20 percent weight per volume maltose.
5. An aqueous buffer of Claim 4 which comprises about 10 percent weight per volume maltose.
- 20 6. An aqueous buffer of Claim 1 wherein the monoclonal antibodies are antimyosin antibody molecules, or fragments, that have been conjugated with a chelating agent.

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7. An aqueous buffer of Claim 6 wherein the chelating agent is DTPA.
8. An aqueous buffer of Claim 6 wherein the monoclonal antibody fragment is a Fab fragment specific for cardiac myosin that has been conjugated with DTPA.
9. An aqueous buffer of Claim 1 wherein the monoclonal antibodies are antifibrin antibody molecules, or fragments, that have been conjugated with a chelating agent.
10. An aqueous buffer of Claim 9 wherein the chelating agent is DTPA.
11. An aqueous buffer of Claim 10 wherein the monoclonal antibody fragment is a Fab fragment specific for fibrin that has been conjugated with DTPA.
12. An improved aqueous solution of antimyosin or antifibrin containing a buffer and a salt, wherein the improvement comprises incorporating between about 5 to about 20 percent by weight maltose into the solution whereby the stability of the antibody in solution is enhanced by the presence of the maltose and wherein the buffer is sodium phosphate and the salt is sodium chloride.

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13. An aqueous buffer solution for monoclonal antibodies, which comprises:
- (a) about 10 mM to about 100 mM sodium phosphate, with a pH between about 6 - 8;
  - (b) about 145 mM sodium chloride;
  - (c) about 5-10% weight per volume maltose; and
  - (d) about .5 to about 5.2 mg/ml of a monoclonal antibody Fab fragment that has been conjugated with a metal chelator.
14. An aqueous buffer of Claim 13 wherein the antibody is specific for cardiac myosin or fibrin.
15. An aqueous buffer of Claim 14 wherein the metal chelator is DTPA.
16. An aqueous buffer of Claim 13 which comprises:
- (a) 10 mM sodium phosphate;
  - (b) 145 mM sodium chloride;
  - (c) 10% weight per volume maltose, and
  - (d) .5 mg/ml Fab-DTPA specific for cardiac myosin
17. An aqueous buffer of Claim 16 wherein the sodium phosphate has a pH of about 6.5-6.75.
18. An aqueous buffer of Claim 13 which comprises:
- (a) 10 mM sodium phosphate;
  - (b) 145 mM sodium chloride;

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- (c) 10% weight per volume maltose; and
- (d) .5 mg/ml Fab DTPA specific for fibrin.

- 05      19. An aqueous buffer of Claim 17 wherein the sodium phosphate has a pH of between about 6.0-6.25.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/US 89/02289

<b>I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b> (If several classification symbols apply, indicate all) * According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC IPC <sup>4</sup> : A 61 K 39/395, A 61 K 47/00		
<b>II. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>		
Minimum Documentation Searched <sup>7</sup>		
Classification System	Classification Symbols	
IPC <sup>4</sup>	A 61 K	
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched <sup>8</sup>		
<b>III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT*</b>		
Category <sup>9</sup>	Citation of Document, <sup>11</sup> with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages <sup>12</sup>	Relevant to Claim No. <sup>13</sup>
A	EP, A, 0124018 (ARMOUR PHARMACEUTICAL CO.) 7 November 1984	
A	CH, A, 645537 (THE GREEN CROSS CORP.) 15 October 1984	
-----		
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><sup>10</sup> Special categories of cited documents:</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.</p> <p>"A" document member of the same patent family</p> </div> </div>		
<b>IV. CERTIFICATION</b>		
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search		Date of Mailing of this International Search Report
14th September 1989		06 OCT 1989
International Searching Authority		Signature of Authorized Officer
EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE		T.K. WILLIS

**ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT  
ON INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

US 8902289

SA 29322

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on 29/09/89. The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP-A- 0124018	07-11-84	AU-B- 561590	14-05-87
		AU-A- 2740284	01-11-84
		CA-A- 1214102	18-11-86
		DE-A- 3467706	07-01-88
		JP-A- 59206312	22-11-84
		US-A- 4478829	23-10-84
CH-A- 645537	15-10-84	None	

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82